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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,832	01/29/2004	Kiyoshi Tomioka	248247US0	2362
22850	7590	01/03/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			NAGUBANDI, LALITHA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1621	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.:	Applicant(s)
	10/765,832 Examiner Lalitha Nagubandi	TOMIOKA, KIYOSHI Art Unit 1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/29/2004</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Office Action

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 are considered for examination in this office action.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi et al (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2003, 125, 2886-2887) and Cole (Tetrahedron Vol. 50, No. 32, pp 9517-9582, 1994).

Applicants claim a production method of an optically active β -amino acid represented by the formula (I). The method comprises a step of reacting a compound represented by the formula (II) with (III) in the presence of a chiral compound represented by the formula (IV). Further, applicants also claim a production method of an optically active compound represented by the formula (V) obtained by reacting the compounds of formulae (II), with (III) in presence of (IV).

Additionally, the reaction is carried out in the presence of chlorotrimethylsilane.

Doi et al disclose (See page 2886, Paragraphs 2, 3 and Table 1. also see on page 2887 paragraph 2) the preparation of optically active compounds of formula (V) and (VI) of the instant invention.

The instant claimed invention differs from the prior art by being directed to formula free β -amino acid. Doi et al is silent about the deprotection of the ester group. However, Cole (see page 9528, Scheme 4.2, Tetrahedron Vol. 50, No. 32, pp. 9517-9582, 1994) discloses, the formation of the free amino acid.

This difference is not patentable because it would have been obvious, at the time of the invention, to one of ordinary skill in the art to have tried various reaction parameters like different deprotecting reagents to arrive at the instant compounds with a reasonable expectation of success. One skilled in the art would be motivated to make such changes in order to optimize the reaction conditions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doi et al (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2003, 125, 2886-2887).

Applicants claim a production method of an optically active compound represented by the formula (V) obtained by reacting the compounds of formulae (II), (III) and (IV). Further, the reaction is carried out in the additional presence of chlorotrimethylsilane.

Doi et al teach (See page 2886, Paragraphs 2, 3 and Table 1. also see on page 2887 paragraph 2) the preparation of optically active compounds of the instant invention thus anticipating the instant claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 7- 9 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because multiple dependent claims cannot depend on another multiple dependent claim. Accordingly, claims 7- 9 have not been further treated on the merits.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Art Unit: 1621

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalitha Nagubandi whose telephone number is 571 272 7996. The examiner can normally be reached on 6.30am to 3.30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on 571 272 0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lalitha Nagubandi
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600

December 20th, 2006.



Samuel A Barts Ph.D.

Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600